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League of Women Voters of Maine Staff

League of Women Voters of Maine

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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
League of Women Voters of Maine

November 14, 1961

Number 1

CALL TO ACTION

Special session of the Legislature, November 27. Matching state funds urgently needed for sewage treatment plants. Program will be seriously slowed down if municipalities have to wait a year or two until funds are available.

Background

The 100th Legislature increased state incentive payments for municipal treatment plants from 20% to 30% of total project costs, making state contributions equal to those of the federal government. Actually the Legislature had no way of knowing exactly how much money would be required for this program since Congress was still in session and the Federal program had not been enacted. They didn't appropriate anywhere near enough.

Under the Federal program Maine has been allotted \$989,320 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1962. \$357,000 old funds are still available. To match this the legislature appropriated only \$290,000 per year which has been supplemented with \$145,000 left from last year. Projects for Augusta (\$250,000), Saco (\$15,000), and Caribou (\$250,000) has created a deficit of \$80,000 for this year.

Funds, both state and Federal, have lapsed in the past. There seems to be plenty of demand for funds now. Our cities and towns, in some cases, have met the necessary specifications and are now ready to build treatment plants. The classification of the Kennebec has hurried this process along. Mr. Macdonald expects that Wilton and Norway-South Paris will be applying for funds before the end of fiscal 1963. After July, 1962 the maximum grant for one project will increase from \$250,000 to \$600,000. Where are our matching funds?

Action

The State Board, at meeting October 17th, agreed that this was an emergency situation--worthy of consideration at the special session--calling for League action under State CR2. A letter has been sent to Governor Reed by our President, Margaret Woodbury, informing him of the League's position. Letters were sent to the "Screening" committee to have the bill put on the agenda.

The Maine Municipal Association will endeavor to have a money bill introduced in this special session calling for \$250,000 additional for each year of the biennium. This would not be enough to equal federal funds, but it would be a help and is probably all that could reasonably be expected to be granted from unappropriated surplus in this special session.

Local Leagues

Please contact your representatives and senators before they go to Augusta, November 27th, for the special session. The problem is two-

fold, first to get the bill on the agenda and second, to pass it. If the legislative leadership is successful in making this special session a short one, things may happen very fast. If this bill is referred to committee, a spokesman from the League will make a statement. (Good opportunity for new members to attend.)

The special session convenes on Monday, November 27th at 4:00 P.M. Some legislators predict the hearing on this bill to be the next day.

WATCH YOUR NEWSPAPER FOR DEVELOPMENTS AND DATE OF HEARING!

Whit McEvoy, Water Chairman

Stella Patten, Legislative
Chairman

An Act to Provide \$500,000 for the Biennium for the Purpose of
Making State Grants to Municipalities for Sewage Treatment Works

Funds are needed now to carry on the process of cleaning up our waters. Our cities and towns have become increasingly aware of the need for pollution control and have been taking steps to do something about it.

	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>State Funds</u>
<u>Completed projects</u>		
Kennebunk	\$246,000	\$164,000
Winthrop	65,000	43,000
Presque Isle	140,000	93,000
Old Orchard Beach	173,000	115,000
	68,000	45,000
Bristol	3,000	2,000
University of Maine	15,000	none
 <u>Projects under way</u>		
Saco	77,000	51,000
Sanford	250,000	167,000
 <u>Authorized</u>		
Augusta	250,000	250,000
Saco	15,600	15,600
 <u>Applied for</u>		
Caribou	250,000	250,000
 <u>Expected before the end of '63</u>		
Wilton	up to 600,000	?
Norway-South Paris	up to 600,000	?

Only \$210,000 will remain in the state fund after Caribou's project has been granted, less than enough for one major project. After June, 1962 maximum state participation in one project increases to \$600,000.

Federal funds are available. We urge the Legislature to keep faith with Maine communities by providing additional matching state funds to help keep this program moving until the next regular session.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

December 8, 1962

Volume 4, Number 1

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Now is the time for local Leagues to start laying plans for interviewing recently elected State Senators and Representatives. Please try to have these interviews completed and report forms (sample attached) mailed to Mrs. Charles D. McEvoy, Jr., 51 Highland Street, Bangor, by January 23, 1963. Since these are informal, get-acquainted interviews, they should be held either before the Legislature convenes or during the first few weeks of the session. The main purpose is to establish a friendly relationship with your legislator so that you will feel free to call on him later for advice or help. What are his particular interests? What are his opinions about League program items? Assure him these discussions are not for publication.

You may want to vary the form of these interviews. Usually two or more League members, having made an appointment in advance, meet with the legislator at his office or place of business. Half an hour will usually be sufficient unless he appears particularly anxious to talk longer. This will probably be the best approach for a "freshman" legislator. Experienced Senators and Representatives seem to enjoy an opportunity to discuss affairs of state with a group. This might be arranged at a member's home. Each local board will want to talk over the most suitable approach for each legislator, taking into consideration womanpower and the time element. Try to have each member attend at least one interview. This is a sure way to spark interest in state government.

SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS

TAXES: We have reached consensus in favor of the principle of a state income tax, personal and corporate, to supplement sales and use tax. We are now looking for like-minded individuals or groups who will be willing to work with us toward this end. Sound out your legislators and see if they have any sympathy for an income tax, now or in the future. Our booklet, STATE TAXES, was mailed to all candidates in June. Taxation was one of the three major topics of consideration at the Pre-legislative Conference in Orono, December 5-7.

WATER
PROBATION & PAROLE
BOYS TRAINING CENTER

We shall be supporting budget requests on all three of these.

WATER: The most important point on Water will be to see that the Legislature provides enough funds to match the federal grants for sewage treatment plants. This will be about one million dollars per year. (See C.R. Review, October, 1962).

BTC: Mr. Hughes considers that the 100th Legislature rejected relocation of the school. He is, therefore, going ahead with plans for expansion and improvements at the present site.

If you have no Legislative Chairman, these interviews are Board responsibility. Mrs. Donald Cunningham, 102 Wythburn Rd., So. Portland, will coordinate senatorial interviews for the four Leagues in Cumberland County.